



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

March 6, 2018

President Gary L. Baker II  
Columbus Board of Education  
270 East State Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Baker,

Information brought to my attention raises concerns that the process the Columbus City School District used to select a new superintendent may be in violation of O.R.C. 121.22. If the District violated the Open Meetings Law, the decisions made are void *ab initio* as a matter of law.

This letter serves as notice that the Ohio Auditor of State's office has begun a preliminary inquiry into the process used to narrow the field of candidates. The District is directed to retain all copies of records, notes and electronic media of any proceedings related to the process of selecting the new superintendent.

Members of my staff will be in contact with you and/or district staff on Wednesday, March 7, to arrange for the collection of the public records relevant to this inquiry. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State

CC: Interim Superintendent John Stanford

Board member Michael Cole  
Board member Eric S. Brown  
Board member W. Shawna Gibbs  
Board member Mary Jo Hudson  
Board member Dominic Paretti  
Board member Ramona R. Reyes